## In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8, 13-15, 17 and 19-22 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claims 9-12 and 16 for the claims 9-12 and 16 now pending in the above-identified application.

Please add new claims 23-30.

## Claims 1-8. (Cancelled)

- 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 An agent according to claim 7, wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride, troglitazone, rosiglitazone, 4-[4-[2-(5-methyl-2-phenyloxazol-4-yl)ethoxy]benzyl]isoxazolidin-3,5-dione or 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 An agent according to claim 7, wherein the acidosis is diabetic acidosis.
- 11. (Currently Amended) <u>The method of claim 18</u> An agent according to claim 7, wherein the acidosis is acidosis caused by a biguanide.
- 12. (Currently Amended) <u>The method of claim 18</u> An agent according to Claim 7, which is an agent for preventing or treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory diseases.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled)

- 16. (Currently Amended) An agent A method for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer in combination with insulin.
  - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) Method for improving or treating acidosis in a mammal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of an insulin sensitizer.

Claims 19-22 (Cancelled)

- 23. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of
- 1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof,
- 2) a compound of the formula:

$$R^{4}-Xa-(CH_{2})k-Ya \qquad Ea \qquad (CH_{2})p-0-N=C-(CH_{2})q-(C)r-C-R^{8} \qquad (III)$$

wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR<sup>9</sup>- where R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, or -NR<sup>10</sup>- where R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R<sup>8</sup> represents hydroxy, -OR<sup>11</sup> where R<sup>11</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> where R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, a heterocyclic group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> may be combined to form a ring; R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are

the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or  $R^6$  and  $R^5$  may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof;

- 3) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthyl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;
- 4) FK-614; and
- 5) KRP-297.

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- 24. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is pioglitazone hydrochloride.
- 25. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the insulin sensitizer is a compound of the formula:

wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR<sup>9</sup>- where R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, or -NR<sup>10</sup>- where R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R<sup>8</sup> represents hydroxy, -OR<sup>11</sup> where R<sup>11</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> where R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or an

acyl group that may be substituted, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> may be combined to form a ring; R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the compound is

acid;

- Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-phenylacetic acid;
- Z-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;
- Z-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]acetic acid;
- Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetic
- Z-4-(4- fluorophenyl )-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;
- Z-3-methyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;
- E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;
- E-4-(4- fluorophenyl )-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid:
- E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyramide; or E-8-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-8-phenyloctanoic acid.
- 27. (NEW) The method of claim 16 which is for treating disturbance of consciousness, coma or respiratory distress.

- 28. (NEW) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is selected from the group consisting of
- 1) pioglitazone or a salt thereof,
- 2) a compound of the formula:

$$R^{4}-Xa-(CH_{2})k-Ya \qquad Ea \qquad (CH_{2})p-O-N=C-(CH_{2})q-(C)r-C-R^{8} \qquad (II)$$

wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR<sup>9</sup>- where R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, or -NR<sup>10</sup>- where R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R<sup>8</sup> represents hydroxy, -OR<sup>11</sup> where R<sup>11</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> where R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or an acyl group that may be substituted, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> may be combined to form a ring; R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof;

- 3) 5-[[6-(2-fluorobenzyloxy)-2-naphthýl]methyl]-2,4-thiazolidinedione;
- 4) FK-614; and
- 5) KRP-297.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 18 wherein the insulin sensitizer is a compound of the formula:

$$R^{4}-Xa-(CH_{2}) k-Ya = Ea + (CH_{2}) p-0-N=C-(CH_{2}) q-(C) r-C-R^{8}$$
(III)

wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; Xa represents a chemical bond, a group of the formula -CO-, -CH(OH)-, or -NR<sup>9</sup>- where R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; k is an integer of 1 to 3; Ya represents oxygen atom, sulfur atom, -SO-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, or -NR<sup>10</sup>- where R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group that may be substituted; ring Ea represents a benzene ring that may have further 1 to 3 substituents; p is an integer of 1 to 8; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or a heterocyclic group that may be substituted; q is an integer of 0 to 6; r is 0 or 1; R<sup>8</sup> represents hydroxy, -OR<sup>11</sup> where R<sup>11</sup> represents a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or -NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> where R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen, a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> may be combined to form a ring; R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same or different, and represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group that may be substituted, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> may be combined to form a ring; or a salt thereof.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29 wherein the compound is Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-phenylacetic acid; Z-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid; Z-2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]acetic acid; Z-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)acetic acid;

Z-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;
Z-3-methyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;
E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyric acid;
E-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]butyric acid;
E-4-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-4-phenylbutyramide; or
E-8-[4-(5-methyl-2-phenyl-4-oxazolylmethoxy)benzyloxyimino]-8-phenyloctanoic acid.